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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/507,023	03/14/2005	Edgar Ivo Maria van der Heijden	903-117 PC'D/US	7696
23860 7590 04/14/2009 HOFFMANN & BARON, LLP 6900 JERICHO TURNPIKE SYOSSET, NY 11791				
EXAMINER				
NGO, LIEN M				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
3754				
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary**Application No.**

10/507,023

Applicant(s)VAN DER HEIJDEN, EDGAR IVO
MARIA**Examiner**

LIEN TM NGO

Art Unit

3754

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 January 2009.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 17-33, 35-44 and 46-50 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 17-26 and 28-33 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 35-37, 39-43 and 46-50 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 38 and 44 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

1. Claims 17 and 35 are objected to because of the following informalities:

In claim 17, line 2, "a dispensing unit" should be – the dispensing unit --.

In claim 35, line 2, "a dispensing unit" should be – the dispensing unit --.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.
3. Claims 35-37, 39-42, 46 and 47 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Feldmann (EP 443519) in view of Flaig et al. (5,740,947).

Feldmann discloses, in figs 1 and 3, a dispensing unit formed or to be formed from a combination of a first container 24 and a second container 44 to form a dispensing unit, which first and second containers each have a reservoir for a liquid substance and a pump, which is secured to the reservoir, can be actuated by hand and has a dispensing opening and a pump-actuating button 10, 30, for dispensing substance from the reservoir, first coupling members 18, 20 and associated second coupling members 38, 40 are each arranged fixedly on the pump-actuating button.

Feldmann does not disclose the dispensing unit comprising a separate reservoir holder to enclose the first and second containers.

Flaig et al. teaches, in fig. 3, a separate reservoir holder to enclose the first and second containers of a dispensing unit.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the dispensing unit of Feldmann with comprising a separate reservoir holder to enclose the first and second containers, as taught by Flaig et al., in order to enhance of the security of the coupling between the containers.

4. Claim 43 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Feldmann in view of Flaig et al.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to make the first and second coupling members to form a permanently coupling (for example: adhesive, weld bonding) as and obvious matter of a design choice for a coupling which can no longer be released by a user.

5. Claims 48- 50 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Feldmann in view of Flaig et al. and further in view of Palmisano et al. (4,384,660).

Palmisano et al. teach a generally U shaped clamp for blocking an actuating button in a dispensing unit.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide a clamping element in the invention of Feldmann in view of Flaig et al. to block the actuating button in a non-dispensing position.

Allowable Subject Matter

6. Claims 38 and 44 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.
7. Claims 17-26 and 28-33 are allowed.

Response to Arguments

8. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 35-37, 39-43 and 46-50 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

9. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any

extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to LIEN TM NGO whose telephone number is 571-272-4545. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 8:30 AM -6:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, KEVIN SHAVER can be reached on 571-272-4720. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/LIEN TM NGO/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3754

April 6, 2009

